



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 31, 2006

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**DEATH OF BAD CASINO BILL PROVES
POTAWATOMI'S WAR ON COMPETITION ISN'T WORKING**

Evan N. Zeppos, spokesman for the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin's proposed Kenosha casino project, today issued the following statement praising the Assembly's bipartisan vote to uphold Gov. Doyle's veto of AB 461. The now-dead bill would have required legislative approval, in addition to the Governor's signature, before land can be taken into federal trust for gaming in Wisconsin.

"The Assembly's vote is an enormous victory for the Menominee Tribe, for Kenosha and for everyone who cares about good jobs and economic health for Wisconsin. It demonstrates that our elected leaders support good public policy and the already thorough and fair review process for off-reservation gaming. The bipartisan vote also deals a crushing blow to the Forest County Potawatomi, who dropped hundreds of thousands of dollars on ads and 'laser lobbyists' in a last-minute attempt to pass this special-interest legislation. Perhaps most telling is the fact that the Potawatomi's aggressive effort failed to get even the Milwaukee delegation to vote their way.

"The Potawatomi have spent millions to kill the proposed Kenosha casino and preserve their monopoly on gaming in Southeastern Wisconsin. With today's solid defeat in Madison, it's likely that they'll continue to waste time and resources by trying to fight competition on a federal level. Their outright attack on the Menominee, the top-quality development and management team the Menominee have assembled and basic business competition is an ugly scar on the Potawatomi's otherwise rich and honorable heritage. We believe enough is enough. The Menominee previously offered to work with the Potawatomi, and that offer stands today. To paraphrase former President Ronald Reagan to former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, we now ask the Potawatomi to 'tear down this wall' and work peacefully with the Menominee.

"We have been saddened that the Potawatomi, whose off-reservation Milwaukee casino has made them one of the richest tribes in the state, have used those riches to try to hurt a fellow tribe, particularly one as poor as the Menominee. The Potawatomi's last-ditch push for AB 461 was the latest in a string of expensive – yet unsuccessful – attempts by the tribe to squelch competition. They spent millions to try to defeat the overwhelmingly successful 2004 Kenosha casino referendum, to push through federal legislation that would have hurt the Kenosha project, to scare elected officials with a bogus economic report, to bus their casino employees to a Bureau of Indian Affairs hearing where they were vastly outnumbered by supporters and more – all to no avail.

"Our hope now is that the Potawatomi will see that by working together, the Potawatomi and Menominee can do much more for their tribes, their communities and the entire State of Wisconsin. Valid economic studies – including one paid for by the Potawatomi – show there is tremendous market potential for gaming in Southeastern Wisconsin, and plenty of room for an expanded Milwaukee casino and a new Kenosha entertainment center to succeed. That means more jobs, more money for state and local governments and, overall, more economic opportunity for Wisconsin. We hope that the Potawatomi now decide to put down their arms and put their vast resources to work with the Menominee for the good of Wisconsin and of our state's Indian tribes."